



REMEMBER!
THEY'RE IN THERE FOR US.
LET'S BE THERE FOR THEM.

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ANARCHISM

*The Advanced Studies
of "Giving a Damn!"*

Presentation given by
Anthony Rayson at the
Progressive Forum in
Matteson, IL on 9/20/06

The Advanced Studies of "Giving a Damn!"

The dictionary definition of anarchy is chaos and violence -- a society descending into barbarism. But, it also means a highly articulate philosophy of moral living. Of course, the powers that be want people to not know the difference and lump the philosophy of anarchism with the basest actions of mankind. That's what governments love to do -- lie about everything! In a very real sense, we are living in a society and a world of chaos and violence -- orchestrated by governments serving the interests of wage-slave based corporations. It's massive, daily, endless state terrorism -- violence, deprivation, deportation, kidnapping, incarceration, surveillance, harassment, extortion (taxes) disinformation, regimentation, demonization, fear-mongering, militarization, false education (ignorance) racism, classism, sexism, homophobia, hopelessness, impoverishment, environmental degradation, consumerism, escapism, predation, the worshipping of state violence, police statism, religious fundamentalism and outright torture and murder by government agents -- fascism -- and this has been going on for a long, long time.

As well, the world is being subjected to nuclear warfare, by the U.S. government, who has uses hundreds of thousands of tons of "depleted uranium" encased weaponry in places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia and elsewhere. "Depleted uranium" is a euphemism, like "friendly fire." It is U-235, which most mined uranium is. It is highly radioactive and cumulative in its effects. Weapons grade uranium is U-238, used in nuclear weapons. What America has done basically, has been to condemn all of Iraq's people to a slow, horrible death. Another dreadful thing this monstrous regime has done is blow up the extensive chemical and biological weapons Saddam had stored in 1991, unleashing all of these horrors, as well. Hundreds of thousands of American troops are now suffering from "Gulf War Syndrome" and millions of Iraqi's (and Afghani's) are immeasurably more doomed by these unspeakable and ongoing slow massacres. U-235 has a half-life of 4.5 billion years, the same lifespan estimated for our sun, so this is an *eternal* death sentence to a whole civilization -- the cradle of civilization.

So, we have horrific chaos and violence and terrorism, directed by the U.S. government, mainly composed of high echelon corporate leaders, all paid for by our tax dollars. So, in a very real way, we are directly responsible for the death of our own planet!

Let me read you part of a letter that illustrates the fact that government is the main source of terrorism in this world. This was sent by an articulate prisoner, Dale Diamond, incarcerated in Amarillo, Texas.

Like they say, you can take a pig and put a dress and lipstick on it, but that doesn't change it from being a pig.

When is it that people will begin to realize the price that must be paid in having capitalism as an economic system?

Education is a continuous, never-ending process of development; from cradle to grave.

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Ferrer believed that "the whole value of education consists in respect for the physical, intellectual & moral faculties of the child." A child should have the opportunity to be placed in natural settings, to visit factories & laboratories, which should be demonstrated & explained. Children should go to museums, parks and to the sea. Parents should be encouraged to continue their child's education and learn themselves at night & on Sundays. Lectures should be organized that are open to the general public. We must teach the teachers to make the schools instruments of self-development & also a lever of social regeneration.

Bakunin said: "The essence of all moral education is this: inculcate children with respect for humanity and you will make good men."

Ferrer: "I love children above everything. I think I understand them. I want my contribution to the cause of liberty to be a young generation ready to meet a new era."

Ferrer's work was destroyed by government repression and he was murdered in 1909. His final words to the firing squad were: "Aim well, my friends. You are not responsible. I am innocent. Long live the modern school!"

For me, above all, anarchism means education and social engagement. It means to live your ideals in action for freedom, for social justice, against coercion, conformity and ignorance.

I strive to help develop and nurture the spirit and potential of humankind and fight its debasement, brutalization and surrendering to hopelessness and acquiescence to genocide.

Anarchy is the heartbeat that drives many people to strive to actualize their highest ideals into their daily lives. It's the ultimate reality check humanizer.

I've been lucky to have heard from many brilliant thinkers. But one in particular I'd like to mention in closing.

Sam Mbah is from the Nigerian Awareness League. He's just an amazing interpreter of political reality from the anarchist perspective. Anarchism is truly a world-wide gift of humanity for humanity! Long Live the Modern School, indeed! For FREEDOM!

human being develop from within, self-active and free, in accordance with the eternal law."

Fourier insisted on "absolute liberty" as indispensable for growth and happiness.

Kropotkin argued that the "sterility of conventional education produces superficiality, parrot-like repetition, slavishness and inertia of mind."

Tolstoy favored an "unconscious education" – a natural process in which children are not even aware that they are being educated. He taught that all aspects of education should be directed towards the pupil's emancipation. "Let it be established that there is only one criterion in teaching – freedom!"

Bakunin stated: "Children belong neither to their parents nor to society. They belong to themselves and their future liberty."

Stirner said that children should be treated with respect as "creators" and not "creatures."

These ideas are based on the belief in the essential goodness of human nature. Free education rejects the notion of "original sin." Children are innocent at birth. Evil is rooted in a corrupt environment and repressive institutions.

Free schools should be an environment of patience, affection, a place where self-discipline is encouraged, kindness and consideration. Arbitrary rules, rewards & punishments should be abolished. There would be no marks or examinations which might engender hypocrisy and dissimulation & arouse feelings of envy among pupils.

Students should be free to learn without fear & pressure of rivalry & competition. The student – teacher relationship should be controlled by love.

The best atmosphere for students is one of full liberty where they are free to settle disputes among themselves.

I have to wonder what they teach the kids in public school these days where it concerns the impact a capitalist society has on the environment and at the price that has been / is being paid to preserve capitalism – the massacre of the innocents the world over.

From the Prisonhouse to the Slaughterhouse spells it out all very clearly. *"We know that for capitalism to survive, it must endlessly expand, as its whole modus operandi is driven by the quest for the profits of elites, not the needs of the world."*

Our hard work is exploited for profits, then taxes, so that industry and government can ruin our communities, force us into being their jailors and soldiers, and wreak devastation on our brothers and sisters across the globe. "Democracy" in bloodthirsty action!"

In closing, here are a few numbers – acts of atrocity that I gleaned from the book, Terrorism and Tyranny: Trampling Freedom, Justice and Peace to Rid the World of Evil, by James Bovard, 2003. pp. 233 & 235. "According to the U.S. State Department, between 1980 and 2000, 7,745 people were killed in international terrorist incidents. During the same period, governments around the globe killed more than 10 million people."

The carnage in recent decades is typical of government atrocities in the modern era. Professor R.I. Rummel, in his book, Death By Government declared: "Almost 170 million men, women and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, crushed, overworked to death, buried alive. Drowned, hung, bombed, or killed in any other of the myriad ways governments have inflicted death on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners, during the twentieth century."

Professor Irving Horowitz in a 1989 essay, entitled "Counting Bodies: The Dismal Science of Authorized Terror", observed: "...in raw numerical terms, the source of the killing in this century tells the story: governments have been directly responsible for the deaths of roughly 120 million people, while war (both international and civil) accounts for thirty-five million deaths. In other words, in this century, really in the last forty-five years, over three and a half times more people have been killed by their own governments than by opposing states..."

Dale Diamond #782043
Neal Unit
9055 Spur 591
Amarillo, TX 79107-9696

This doesn't even include all the horrible government genocides in Bosnia, Rwanda, the Congo, Darfur, Colombia, etc. etc.!

OK. Anarchists are different. We detest crime and violence, coercion, predation, intimidation, indoctrination and all of that. We believe in self-respect and a learned, motivated engagement in society. This is natural mutual aid in action, for the females and males of humanity are highly social creatures, are capable, deserving of

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and longing for free and open dealings with anybody else and not be brutally mentally herded by the Julius Streichers of America, today.

We focus on Earthly truth, and what has to be done to rescue her and the future of our children. Make no mistake, the Earth is being held hostage by global capitalism and its bloodthirsty governments with unbelievably dangerous weapons, which we have just seen are used mainly on their own people! In other words, people pay taxes, so the government can get guns, bombs, planes, gas, tasers – whatever – to kill you and your fellow Americans. This is today, in the here-and-now, not the genocide of the Native Americans or the chattel slavery of not so long ago. Legally, it's the 2,3 prisoners who are classified as legal slaves. Lawsuits filed by members of the Missouri Prison Labor Union asking for justice from being used as slave laborers – no days off, no wages – nothing! The august Supreme Court justices ruled that according to the 13th Amendment, an extremely important one, prisoners are slaves and can be used as slave laborers.

This is the argument Hitler used to write up the Nuremberg Laws that led the way to the gas chambers! The U.S. Constitution. South African apartheid laws were modeled after it. Remember Plessy v. Ferguson? This was the "separate but equal" ruling institutionalizing Jim Crow discrimination for many decades. The Constitution, is in fact, a fraudulent, unenforceable (by reason) document! It is a slaver's document that was never really agreed to by any of us, nor many people back in the day. Unlike, the Declaration of Independence, it wasn't even signed – except by John Hancock! We're supposed to believe, that because the public grade schools force the kids to stand and say the "Pledge of Allegiance" every day before classes, that we thus have agreed to this thing, do you? That's child abuse, cult-like behavior – which the state insists upon. It's not a valid agreement. It's a coerced imposition, whose flowery language was taken from wise Native Americans they then went and slaughtered and whose vague platitudes are interpreted by reactionary "Supreme Court Justices" whose authority is cut from the self-same, unagreed to cloth.

Here's a brilliant deconstruction of the validity of the Constitution, beautifully written by an early American anarchist thinker, Lysander Spooner. It was written in 1869 in the wake of the domestic, government directed, brotherly bloodbath, known as the Civil War.

It was and is the most fraudulent document ever concocted by a group of pro-slavery higher-ups (landowners, Governors, etc.) Made to appear as a beacon of freedom, it systematized human slavery, denied nearly everyone the right to vote or other rights, paved the way for the raw invasion and slaughter of the Indigenous Nations, all the way to the west coast, including half of Mexico! The real truth is the fact that no government can "grant" rights or freedoms. These are all natural to everybody! Governments can *only* take rights and freedoms away from people!

OK. I'll get back to what anarchists believe. Another hugely important tenet of anarchism is solidarity. This means we come to the aid of each other when we need help. This means *everybody*! Anarchists worth their salt strive to learn about many, many struggles throughout the world, how they're related and put their heads together to articulate the issues involved and formulate some kind of action to educate and hopefully, activate people to deal concretely about these issues. It's about serious, constant free school education and being there when some situation

KEY WORDS

- 1) Freedom
- 2) Spontaneity
- 3) Creativity
- 4) Individuality
- 5) Self-realization

4) Mikhail Bakunin – Brilliant anarchist, contemporary of Marx, foresaw Stalinism, etc.

Bakunin on education:

"Education must be founded wholly upon the scientific development of reason and not upon faith – upon the development of personal dignity and independence, not upon piety and obedience; upon the cult of truth and justice at any cost and above all, upon respect for humanity."

Francisco Ferrer was exiled to France where he started his Modern School Movement. He received an inheritance from an appreciative woman and moved back to Barcelona where his ideas really took off. Many schools were started across Spain. He was shot to death at Montjuich Prison in 1909.

"Rulers have always taken care to control the education of the people. They know better than anyone else that their power is based almost entirely on the school, and they therefore insist on retaining their monopoly on it. The true function of a teacher is to encourage self-learning to allow each child to develop in his or her own way, rather than force a pre-determined program of study on them."

Rousseau had this to say: "No creature in human form will be expected to learn anything but because he desires it and has some conception of its utility and value."

Froebel was the founder of kindergarten. He warned against using a child as you would use a piece of wax – to be molded in a shape that others desired. He called for a method of learning that was "not directive and interfering" but that "would have each

FREE SCHOOL MOVEMENT

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1) Max Stirner – "An education for freedom, not for subservience." The real purpose of education is to produce not "useful citizens" but "free men." – autonomous, independent & self-sufficient.

2) Francisco Ferrer – Emma Goldman said of him –

"He believed that whatever part heredity may play, there are other factors equally great, if not greater, that may and will eradicate or minimize the so-called first cause. Proper economic and social environment, the breath and freedom of nature, healthy exercise, love and sympathy and above all, a deep understanding for the needs of the child – these would destroy the cruel and unjust and criminal stigma imposed on the ignorant child."

3) Leo Tolstoy – "I started my social activity with the school and teaching and after 40 years, I am more convinced that only by education, free education, can we ever manage to rid ourselves of the existing horrible order of things and to replace it with a rational organization."

Freedom in education – what does it mean?

1. Do away with formality, discipline, restrictions, regulations that suppress individual development and divided education from play.
2. Cultivate physical & mental development with crafts, arts & books.
3. Hostility to dogma & superstition.
4. Emphasized reason, observation, science, independence, autonomy and self-reliance.
5. Anti-coercive & anti-authoritarian
6. Stresses the dignity & rights of the child. Tolstoy encouraged warmth, love, affection – instead of regimentation & conformity.

develops and your help is needed. Everybody has certain gifts to contribute. We need to focus on developing our talents and how best they can be utilized to further our goal, which is a conscious and freely interacting citizenry, unhampered by coercive authority or slave relations, which is the last thing any government wants to see happen. When anarchism has briefly flourished, all states, whether they be "democratic" or "fascist" or "communist" have worked together to drown these examples of social freedom in oceans of blood.

We need to learn from each other and build bonds of friendship and solidarity. The New Afrikans have a slogan – "Each one, teach one!" and "Free the Land!" That's what I'm talkin' about! More focus and attention needs to be directed towards making these revelatory analyses available to more working people. People need to learn about and implement the anarchist punk ethic of "D.I.Y. – Do It Yourself!" Self-publishing, photography, music, art, documentaries, presentations, conferences, open forums, all kinds of opportunities to raise issues and consciousness, are available to those who are not bogged down by inertia. It's a contest of your own will, your own sense of self, to maximize your effectiveness. Anarchists, like myself, will be glad to put on teach-in type workshops on how to do all kinds of things (skill sharing.) Just ask us. Also, the internet is very helpful. It's great that kids (some, anyway) have access to computers and know how to use them. There are many excellent websites about anarchists and contacts to get books, zines, films, etc.

I focus most of my attention on thy nation's dungeons because that is ground zero of the oppression, here at home. There are many, many Brothers & Sisters in these pits who need our support, and solidarity. Sometimes, it's a very real case of life and death. To wit, Texas is trying to kill Hasan Shakur (again!) down in Texas. He's the Minister of Human Rights of the New Afrikan Black Panther Party Prison Chapter. He may very well be executed, ala Tookie Williams, in the next few weeks. It's modern-day slavery and people who oppose it are killed or heavily incarcerated. The horrible, beyond Mengele thing these days, is the Control Unit prisons. They are clinical torture chambers – the ultimate in vicarious nazi thrills.

Anarchists, imperfect like everybody else, are sort of activated by these sterling examples of moral principles to live by. Equality of all people, respect for the animals and ecology of Earth, these are what drive us in our activities, if we are not at our wage-slave job. Even on the job, our minds are workin'! The Wobblies, IWW, were the first union to treat women and blacks as equal to other workers and organized the most oppressed and stood in the line of danger courageously. Many were anarchists!

The Haymarket martyrs were all anarchists! These amazing heroes were the epitome of an anarchist, in my opinion. They published several *dailies*, weekly and monthly papers and journals in several languages, organized in defense of workers' rights constantly and electrified the entire world unto this day with their unbounded anarchist courage on the scaffold! Their "Chicago Idea" school of dedicated anarchist agitation is still one of the wonders of human achievement.

They kicked off the whole 8-hour movement. On May 1st, 1886, they led 80,000 people down Michigan Avenue, a full 1/3 the population of Chicago at that time! The next day, the police shot and killed two workers at international Harvester, and wounded many others. Two nights later, the Haymarket rally occurred and all the

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rest. Shortly after the bomb and ensuring massacre by police, a huge round-up of thousands throughout Chicago and took place. That's how they operate, they set things up. Johnson conjured up the Tonkin Gulf Incident, Bush had his "WMD's" and Hitler, ever the student of the U.S., in 1939, dressed up some prisoners as Polish soldiers, trucked them to the frontier, shot them, and then claimed Poland was provoking them into war. This is how "World War II" became generalized, mass government-led slaughtering of civilians and soldiers (who are merely civilians forced into fighting for "their" government.) It's all about the "Big Lie" because they can't stand the truth, which is what anarchists look to find the most. So, they lie about us and hide their crimes in huge buildings in Washington, which normal people aren't allowed to read about. Just like in chattel slavery times, literacy and political consciousness especially, cannot be tolerated, because then people would discover how horrible governments truly are, overcome their lethargy and fear and begin to do something about it, instead of being atomized and fearful and hopeless, all the time.

OK. There's *that* rant! (smile*) Direct Action means to deal with whatever situation you are confronted with, domestic, social, political, whatever, in a responsible, straight ahead approach, always with the idea of fairness and truth and justice in mind. It's stepping up and pitching in all kinds of ways and having the social conscience to do what needs to be done to oppose injustice wherever you see it and defend oneself, family and community and the rest of humanity from any kind of oppression! An injury to one, is an injury to all! I truly believe that and it *hurts me*, when people are murdered by the U.S. government every day. I can't stand injustice to anyone!

Anarchism is tolerant of any religious belief, but necessarily wary. It's very Earth-centered. Although some anarchists hold some religious belief or other, I'd say most are atheists. I sure am! I don't believe any pie in the sky religion. They're invariably anti-women nightmare, depressing institutions, generating intolerance and religious fanaticism, which often leads to terror. It muddies the mind and debilitates the thinking processes. If you start believing a bunch of stuff based merely on "faith," you're much more susceptible to government manipulation, which in fact, is all pervasive throughout all the media. It takes a lot of conscious effort and willpower to defy its pernicious and ubiquitous onslaught, which religious doctrine plays into the hands of. "Good Christians" are a passive flock of sheep!

This is not to say, I don't believe in Spiritualism. I think I'll call myself a "Spiritual Humanist." A brilliant prisoner, Clarence Anthony (Talib Rasheed) Taylor, who is *still* in prison in Indiana, articulated this concept, to the best of my satisfaction. He describes it like this:

"Spiritual-Humanism is a free philosophy that embraces the essence of humanity by transcending the *reactionary* influences and values of nationalism and culture. It accepts the concept that all people are originally derived from the same proto-human, therefore, embody the same *bio-sociological* and *psycho-spiritual* needs.

Spiritual-Humanism is *not* a religion. It has as an objective the acceptance, nurturing, development and spiritual love of human beings. It encourages the *evolution of morality as free, individual choice*, although it must be healthy from

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10. What "The Idea" means for the future of our children & Mother Earth herself.

Explain our work. What anarchism means to me. It's an elevated way of comporting oneself. How I came to realize I was an anarchist, my epiphany & my journey from there. Summary of my distro – a few more recent titles – anarchist, Panthers, New Afrikan, others.

Believing that a selfless, seriously solidarity-minded, free to prisoners, anarchist distro could help blow the cover off this tyrannical, nightmare regime. Think *Communist Manifesto*, *The Conquest of Bread*, *Common Sense* & *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. I aim to continuously jack up the intensity & literary profundity, eloquence, humor, stark truth, explosive prose, incredible analysis & artwork in my distro's publications, which are freely available. See, I'm a "brain worker" anarchist! But, like music, there are countless varieties.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What do you do with all the "bad guys?"
2. "It's human nature (repression & ignorance) – Man is a beast."
3. You'll never convince enough people.
4. It's all scripted by God.
5. I'm too afraid to really think & do!

FEAR – STALINISM

Amerikan fascism – transcending it / overcoming the "fear line." Alternative media, neighborhood media, magazines, zines, books, journals, videos, audios, films, theatre, puppetry, plays, all kinds of interactive & artistic shows & conferences, etc. Children of the internet, awesome anarchist websites. Future is now – podcasting. It a war vs. the Truth! Organizing from the bottom up (prisons)

3. Anarchist influence in publishing – Murray Bookchin, Institute for Anarchist Studies, countless neighborhood newspapers, Fifth Estate, AK Press, Fred Woodworth, Anarchy, Green Anarchy, etc.

4. Important American Anarchists – Lysander Spooner, Johan Most, Haymarket Martyrs, Luigi Galleani, Joe Hill – Wobblies, Sacco & Vanzetti, Emma Goldman, Voltairine de Cleyre, Lucy Parsons, August Spies, Adolph Fischer, Albert Parsons, Alexander Berkman, Yippies, Noam Chomsky, ABC Federation & Network, Seattle '99, many wonderful anarchist speakers, writers, organizers, etc. Always can & should do more.

5. The Punk Movement & Anarchism – D.I.Y. ethics, autonomous zones, battling cops all the time, Earth/Animal Liberation, medics at demos, housing co-ops, prison abolition. Food Not Bombs. Internet websites, punk life-style – gateway to anarchist ideas.

6. All types of anarchists – it's an open-ended philosophy, with a few basic humanistic principles – solidarity, mutual aid, voluntary cooperation, no coercive authority, end to prisons & class0based racist "punishment" consensus decision-making, direct action.

How is it implemented? Affinity groups, grass-roots organizing, always there to volunteer on efforts to demonstrate sustained & useful to their needs solidarity & all kinds of support Convergences, skill sharing workshops, bartering.

7. Anarchism & Religion. No bosses no gods. Christian anarchists – Catholic workers, Leo Tolstoy, some also profess to be Muslims or other religions. Personally, I'm an atheist, although I also call myself a "Spiritual Humanist" as described by Talib Rashid, a brilliant prisoner in Indiana.

8. How anarchists work with other social justice groups & deal with the relentless demonization we face in Amerika.

9. How to develop a serious, useful and effective anarchist social mindset in a country of viciously brainwashed people.

a sociological analysis. (*Do unto others*) It does not tolerate or condone to any degree the practical contradiction of theory. It advocates, human-centered, socially constructive practices and ethics, whereas religions historically have not.

Religions, in general, are god-centered, and these gods are created in the images of the people who worship them. Religions are authoritarian and have historically incorporated into their expressions the repression and pathologies of the cultures in which they operate. These pathologies range from the least to the worst of immoralities: The blind indoctrination of people, sexism, racism, classism, oppression, and genocide."

Clarence Anthony (Talib Rasheed) Taylor
13606 / 13-1E
Indiana Department of Corrections
Pendleton Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 30
Pendleton, Indiana 46064-0030

All too often, structured religions like the Catholic Church, for example, have worked hand in glove with the worst fascist monsters. Recently Opus Dei, a rightist Catholic sect, that was heavily involved in the mass slaughter of anarchists and others, during and years after the Spanish Civil War of the 30's, was elevated to a more sanctimonious level, by the pope. And look at the rightwing "Born Again" nuts of today. Look how Jesus' message has been twisted to go after gays, women, other religions, etc. Remember, Jesus was a victim – a wrongly accused, sentenced and executed prisoner of the dominant imperialist bully government of his time (Rome) just like the whole world is being bullied by Fortress Amerikkka today!

Many organizations have anarchists as volunteers. These may well have been founded by anarchists. We believe in helping others to learn how to help themselves and others. Education and empowerment are everybody's right. We can't rely on the hideous educational system. That Prussian developed monstrosity is a colossal failure. I'll talk more at length on education in a little while.

Anarchists today do things like "Food Not Bombs." This is where anarchists, acquiring the waste of society, through dumpster diving, donations and organic farming, provide and cook food for homeless and hungry people in many cities. Food co-ops, infoshops, housing co-ops, art collectives, musicians, writers, activists, often form collectives and other voluntary alliances, to show solidarity, work on projects together, assist in housing guests for conferences, provide education and space for meetings, or whatever. At demonstrations and other specific direct actions, anarchists usually work in "affinity groups." This is a tight-knit group that makes decisions on their own and looks out for each other directly. They can work with the larger groups and other organizations and so forth, but for certain situations, a reliable, on the same page, agreement group (affinity group) comes in mighty handy!

Another important tenet of anarchism is prison abolition. Prison is an abomination on the soul of humankind. Prisons were first created to house slave laborers in England, and later slaves in America and other low class folks. The prisons are a huge gulag archipelago slave plantation, where the prisoners are indeed,

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constitutionally considered and treated as slaves. Slavery is a big part of the Constitution and always was. What's more, the endless "Drug War" is a gas on a fire solution, similar though much more extensive than prohibition in the 20's. The devastation to the Black communities in particular are of genocidal proportions. A full 1/3 of young Black men in the cities are in prison, on parole or probation. This is several times the incarceration rate of South African apartheid at its worst. With 4.5% of the world's population, we incarcerate 25% of her prisoners. We usurp 30% of the world's resources, condemning countless hundreds of millions to starvation and emaciation, yet still, here in America, tens of millions are hungry, without adequate health care, shelter and have a hopelessness that an oblivious "education" could do nothing to improve!

This is a truly demented country. Atomized and zombified beyond a whisper of compassion, Americans go about their lives in almost horrified ignorance? They "don't know" and they don't want to know? The big evil is the psychological surrendering forced upon us all, like the once proud Bolsheviks denouncing themselves in the most despicable ways, shortly before Stalin's assassins murdered them in a ditch. I'd like to quote Hugo Pinell, a prisoner now for 42 years. He was a comrade-in-arms with the legendary George Jackson.

"Our oppression and dehumanization and our living conditions worldwide, are worse than ever because we are dealing with the most vicious, malicious and inhumane forces in history. They control just about every aspect of our physical and social lives, and that is a reality we can't deny or ignore. But as agonizingly painful as this reality is, the biggest damage these monster criminals have inflicted upon our Humanity is the one done to our mental faculties, through a systematical and dogmatic process, generation to generation."

Another principle is voluntary cooperation. Free association. People should not be coerced into joining any group. If a collective is formed and some people don't want to be involved, that is their prerogative. But, predation cannot be allowed. People can do what they want as long as they don't try to exploit or infringe upon others or damage the environment. That's what separates anarchists from libertarians. They can't stand government interference, either. The problem with them, is that although they like liberty and not being hassled by government, they still want to be able to exploit workers, and ignore the other injustices of capitalism. Anarchists refuse to be a party to any kind of master-slave relationship, plain and simple!

Decisions are ideally come to, through a painstaking process of discussion and consensus. "Democracy" especially as practiced in America, is another fraud. We only have two corporate parties to choose from, and their parts are interchangeable. They don't even count the votes, a huge percentage of black men are ineligible to vote (convicted of some sort of "felony") are arbitrarily taken off the ballot, or whatever. Over half the eligible people don't vote anyway, due to disgust, alienation or distrust of government and millions of so-called "illegals" can't vote, either. The laws are all stacked in favor of stolen wealth and the police are supposed to protect it from the poor – and round them up, in what even the incarceration experts are calling "an incarceration holocaust."

Large corporations give huge sums to basically buy candidates and elections, staff all the lobbyists, and otherwise guide the politics of elected officials. Besides that, due to country-wide mass political stupefaction, a "majority" decision by dangerously ignorant "electors" is no conscious decision at all, but one ready for exploitation by the string-pullers and spin doctors. It's a sham for show only! It's a pathetic nothingness passes off as genuine participation in the social and political life of the country.

Only when people have a real and direct say in what happens to them and their communities, will people-oriented solutions be created. Relying on mayors, the police, the courts, state reps or senators, etc., etc. is an endless exercise in being scorned and ignored, talked down to, etc. It's a miserable parade of frustration, humiliation, ineffectiveness and futility! The system is there to facilitate a profit-driven, corporate economy, not to do what is right for people!

The only real argument government can ultimately come up with for its existence is this: "We have a lot of police and military and we'll kill you if you don't do what we say." To be cowed and go along with that, writes our own death sentence anyway, as we wait our turn. I have children. I have self-respect and I'm not going to do that. Rather, I'll do the opposite of cheerleading for genocide. I'll trumpet truth and life! I'll extend my hand for someone who's down! I'll defy this Death Ship and stand up, like any righteous person should! It goes back to what Emma said about living your ideals. Our one and only life must be a *real* life! Anything less is capitulation and acquiescence to slavery and injustice. We are accountable for our lives and actions.

I thank you.

Notes on My Talk on Anarchism on August 16th, '06

As usual when I give a presentation, I like to read a prepared statement to sort of concentrate my arguments, and then speak extemporaneously, answer questions and so forth. My read statement is enclosed in this overall report, but I also wanted to run down my notes that I drew from when I spoke after the statement. Here are my notes.

1. Historical quotes – Percy Bysshe Shelley, Proudhon, Kropotkin, Voltaire, de Cleyre, Bakunin.
2. Ferrer Schools – Modern School Movement, which spawned independent studies, increased home schooling, alternative schools, zine distros, etc.